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Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 1451

FROM USDEL ANTARCTIC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XV, EFIS, AS, US
SUBJ: ANTARCTIC TREATY - SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING -MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OPENING STATEMENT DELIVERED BY UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE AT OPENING SESSION OF SPECIAL ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATION MEETING ON ANTARCTIC LIVING MARINE RESOURCES.

" MR. CHAIRMAN,MINISTER PEACOCK, MINISTER WEBSTER:
"PERMIT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO ADD ITS VOICE TO THOSE OF OTHER DELEGATIONS IN EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, ON YOUR SELECTION TO GUIDE OUR DELIBERATIONS HERE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU AND ALL THOSE HERE REPRESENTED.

"MY DELEGATION IS DELIGHTED TO BE HERE IN CANBERRA. WE ARE INDEBTED TO YOUR GOVERNMENT, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR ITS HOSPITALITY IN HAVING OFFERED THIS MAGNIFICENT CAPITAL CITY AND THIS HAMDSOME HALL AS THE SITE AND LOCATION FOR THIS CONFERENCE. THE SITE, THE LOCATION, AND AUSTRALIA'S
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DISTINGUISHED ANTARCTIC HISTORY WILL PROVIDE INSPIRATION FOR US ALL.

"THE THREE WEEKS WHICH LIE AHEAD WILL BE DEMANDING. WE APPROACH THEM WITH A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY. THIS SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING, AS PROVIDED IN RECOMMENDATION IX-2 OF THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE

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MEETING, HAS AS ITS PURPOSE THE ELABORATION OF A DEFINITIVE REGIME FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES. RECOMMENDATION IX-2 IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE ANTARCITC TREATY SYSTEM. IT REPRESENTS A COMMITMENT BY THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES TO ADDRESS DIRECTLY THE MAJOR ISSUE ON WHICH THE ANTARCTIC TREATY IS SILENT: THE ISSUE OF RESOURCES, SPECIFICALLY MARINE LIVING RESOURCES.

"THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES NOW HAVE PARALLELS THAT WHICH EXISTED IN 1959. WE HAVE THE CHANCE TO RESOLVE A PROBLEM WHILE IT IS STILL MANAGEABLE. IF WE DO SO, WE WILL BOTH PROVIDE A WELCOME EXAMPLE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND STRENGTHEN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY. TODAY MARKS THE OPENING OF A NEGOTIATION WHICH MAY HAVE THE MOST SIGNIFICANCE FOR ANTARCTICA SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF THE TREATY ITSELF.

"IT IS A NEGOTIATION ON A TOPIC ON WHICH THERE IS WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. IN MY OWN COUNTRY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONGRESS, PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS, AND THE PRESS HAVE SHOWN A QUICKENING AND INFORMED INTEREST IN ANTARCTICA AND THE LIVING RESOURCE ISSUE. THE PRESENCE ON THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE PUBLIC GROUPS AND CONGRES-SIONAL STAFF IS A CLEAR REFLECTION OF THAT INTEREST.
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"WE HAVE STRONG FOUNDATIONS UPON WHICH TO BUKLD:
- - OUR EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION UNDER THE TREADY, COOPERATION WHICH IS NOT ONLY REFLECTED IN THE CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS THEMSELVES BUT IN THE CONTINENT OF ANTARCTICA AS WELL, COOPERATION WHICH I RECENTLY HAD THE PRIVLEDGE OF WITNESSING FOR MYSELF.

- - OUR COOPERATIVE COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES EXPRESSED IN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY.

- - OUR SHARED SCIENTIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ANTARCTICA.

- - OUR MUTUAL GOAL OF PROTECTING THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT, WE CAN AND MUST PRESERVE THIS HERITAGE OF COOPERATION, TO DO SO, WE MUST APPROACH THE LIVING RESOURCE ISSUE WITH A SPIRIT OF INNOVATION AND IMMAGINATION.

" THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD HERE

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BEGINTHE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO PROVIDE FOR EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES. SUCH A CONVENTION
WOULD NOT ONLY STRENGTHEN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM
BUT PROCLAIM ANEW ITS VIGOR.

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FROM USDEL ANTARCTIC

"PERMIT ME, MR. CHAIRMAN, TO SKETCH OUT THE MAIN
FEATURES SUCH A CONVENTION SHOULD CONTAIN.

". THE UNITED STATES SEEKS TO BUILD A TREATY REGIME
THAT WILL ASSSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE ANTARCTIC ECO-
SYSTEM AND THE CONSERRVATION OF ALL ITS COMPONENT PARTS.
TO THIS END A CONSERVATION STANDARD BASED ON AN ECO-
SYSTEM APPROACH IS ESSENTIAL. THIS SHOULD ESTABLISH
AN OBLIGATION TO PREVENT THE DEPLETION OF POPULATIONS
OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES BELOW THE LEVELS
WHICH PRODUCE THE GREATEST NET ANNUAL INCREMENT IN
THOSE POPULATIONS AND WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT NO
IRREVERSIBLE OR LONG TERM CHANES OCCUR IN THE STRUCTURE
AND SPECIES COMPOSITION OF THE ANTARCTIC MARINE ECO-
SYSTEM. SUCH AN APPROACH WILL ALLOW THIS AND FUTURE
GENERATIONS TO REAP THE MAXIMUM BENEFITS FROM THESE
RESOURCES.

"THE REGIME SHOULD ESTABLISH AN ORGANIZATIONAL
STRUCTURE TO OVERSEE AND TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THE
ANTARCTIC MARINE ECOSYSTEM. THAT ORGANIZATION SHOULD
INCLUDE A COMMISSION COMPOSEDOF REPRESENTATIVES OF

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THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, AN INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC
BODY, AND AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARIATT. THE ORGANIZATION
SHOULD HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT MEASURES TO ACHIEVE
THE CONSERVATION STANDARD. TO THAT END, THE ORGGANIZAT-
ION SHOULD PROVIDEE FOR THE ACQUISITION AND ASSESSMENT
OF DATA AND COORDINATE ITS ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER
APPROPRIATE BODIES, BOTH TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY BETWEEN
THE OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED BY CONTRACTING PARTIES AND TO
UTILIZE THE BEST SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE.

"THE REGIME SHOULD REQUIRE THAT THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AND THEIR NATIONALS AND
VESSLES IN THE ANTARCTIC MARINE ECOSYSTEM MEET THE
CONSERVATION STANDARD AND MEASURES ADOPTED THROUGH
THE ORGANIZATION. FURTHER, THE REGIME SHOULD ESTABLISH
AN INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER SYSTEM TO HELP ENSURE
COMPLIANCE WITH CONSERVATION MEASURES AS WELL AS TO
ASSIST IN GATHERING INFORMATION ON ANTARCTIC MARINE
LIVING RESOURCES.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
HAVE AVAILABLE TO THEM INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC ADVICE.
TO THIS END AN INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL SHOULD
BE ESTABLISHED TO ADVISE THE COMMISSION. THAT COUNCIL
WOULD REGULARLY ASSESS THE STATUS AND TRENDS OF THE
POPULATIONS OF THE ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES,
THE EFFECTS OF HARVESTING, AND THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS
OF PROPOSED MEASURES. IT WOULD BE THE DUTY OF THIS
COUNCIL TO PROVIDE OBJECTIVE AND THOROUGH ANAALYSES AND
MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS SOLELY UPON BIOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL
CONSIDERATIONS.

"FINALLY, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THOSE

ENGAGED IN HARVESTING OR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WITHIN THE
ANTARCTIC MARINE ECOSYSTEM SHOULD FULLY PARTICIPATE IN
THE REGIME. ANYTHING LESS CAN NOT GUARANTEE THE
CONSERVATION OF THE ANTARCTIC MARINE ECOSYSTEM.

"THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN."
ALSTON

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